

The Sandoval Zinc site ("site") is an abandoned zinc smelter located on approximately 15 acres southeast of Sandoval, Marion County, Illinois. The

site consists of several buildings, waste piles, and a waste lagoon. From 1885 to 1970 the principal waste emissions from the plant were heavy metal laden cinders and windblown ash. Large quantities of the cinders were used in constructing and surfacing secondary roads in the plant area and as fill material at the plant itself. As a result of this usage, a layer of metal rich cinders, ranging from one to ten feet in thickness, now covers approximately 12 acres of the site.

The IEPA has performed several site inspections and collated numerous soil samples. High levels of zinc, lead, and copper have been present in nearly all samples. A soil sample from the waste lagoon was over 76 times the EP Tox level for lead. Samples from the waste piles showed up to 21.2 times the EP Tox level for lead as well as various levels of barium, cadmium and chromium.

Notwithstanding the extent of the surface contamination the site is frequented by individuals. From 1974 to 1982 the Illinois State Water Survey ("ISWS") installed 52 groundwater monitoring wells. In a June, 1989 IEPA site inspection it was noted that many of these wells had been vandalized or destroyed. Of the original 52 wells only 24 could be located and of these, only three were in a condition suitable for sampling. In addition substantial evidence exists that the site is being used by individuals riding all terrain/recreational vehicles. Also, bicycle tracks have been observed throughout the site.

In May, 1990 the IEPA became aware that the site was being used by a salvage company for interim storage of recyclable materials, including glass, aluminum, cardboard and newspapers. In addition, demolition debris was being dumped by the salvage company at the site. In July, 1990 IEPA personnel requested the salvage company to cease its activities at the site pending an IEPA determination of the extent of the contamination at the site.

In February, 1991 fire broke out in the demolition debris and burned uncontrolled for several days. On March 7, 1991, at the request of the IEPA, the Illinois Attorney General's Office filed a Complaint against the owner of the salvage company seeking an injunction against the further burning and dumping of demolition debris and recyclable materials at the site. On March 11, 1991 the injunction was granted. Sometime after the issuance of the injunction a fire of unknown origin broke out among the recyclable materials. Also, employees of the salvage company continue various activities at the site.

BASIS FOR SEAL ORDER

The IEPA has determined that emergency conditions are present at the site which present an immediate danger to human health and the environment. This determination is based upon the presence of hazardous wastes and substances on and near the surface of the site, the use of the site by numerous individuals for purposes including, but not limited to, unauthorized "recreational" activities, and the probability that these individuals may come into contact with hazardous wastes and substances. By sealing the site the IEPA seeks to:

- 1) prevent direct contact between unprotected individuals and the hazardous waste and substances present at the site including zinc, lead, barium, cadmium and chromium, 2) prevent open dumping and burning of materials that may contribute to the spread of contamination, and 3) preserve the site as completely as possible from any unauthorized action or entry.


TEMPORARY ACCESS

This Seal Order may be lifted temporarily upon the express authorization of the IEPA's site Project Manager or the Manager of the IEPA's Field Operations Section in order to provide access to the site for response action

contractors or any other persons authorized by the IEPA. Only those persons so authorized may lawfully enter the site. If this Seal Order is temporarily lifted, the IEPA site Project Manager or the Manager of the IEPA's Field Operations Section shall specify the maximum time authorized persons may remain on-site, and the specific areas of the site to which those persons are to have access. The full effect of this Seal Order shall resume upon the termination of the specific period of temporary access authorized by the IEPA's site Project Manager or the Manager of the IEPA's Field Operations Section.

This Seal Order shall become effective immediately upon my signature hereon.

Violators of this Seal Order shall be subject to prosecution for a Class A misdemeanor.



Mary A. Gade
Director
Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency

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